Amendments to the Specification:

Please add the following paragraph as a first paragraph of the specification:

This application is a national stage entry under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of PCT patent application no. PCT/DE00/01873 filed on June 8, 2000, which claims priority to German patent application no. 19926068, filed on June 8, 1999.

Please replace paragraph starting at page 26, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The phagemid particles were again precipitated by mixing with ¼ volume (in each case 0.25 ml per reaction vessel) of 20% w/v PEG 8000, 15% w/v NaCl and incubating on ice for 60 min. After centrifugation (20 min, 18500 g, 4 °C), the supernatant was removed and the precipitated phagemid particles were each dissolved in 0.5 ml of PBS. After incubation on ice for 30 min, centrifugation (5 min, 18500 g, 4 °C) was repeated to clarify the solution. The supernatant containing the phagemid particles (between ~~$1 \bullet 10^{12}$~~ 1×10^{12} and ~~$4 \bullet 10^{12}$~~ 4×10^{12} cfu/ml) was then used for affinity enrichment.

Please replace paragraph starting at page 26, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The conjugate was prepared by adding 1.46 µmol (0.96 mg) of digoxigenin-3-O-methylcarbonyl-ε-aminocaproic acid N-hydroxysuccinimide ester (DIG-NHS, Boehringer Mannheim) in 25 µl of dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) in µl steps and with constant mixing to 0.73 µmol (10 mg) of RNaseA (Fluka) in 1 ml of 5% w/v sodium hydrogen carbonate. The mixture was incubated with stirring at room temperature (RT) for 1 h. Excess reagent was then removed from the RNaseA conjugate by means of a PD-10 gel filtration column (Pharmacia) according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Please replace paragraph starting at page 27, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

For removing unbound phagemids the solution was stripped off and the Immuno-Stick was washed eight times with in each case 950 µl of PBST for 2 min. Finally, adsorbed phagemids were competitively eluted during a 15 min incubation of the Immuni-Stick with 950 µl of a 2 mM solution of digoxigenin in PBS (for this purpose, 0.742 mg of digoxigenin (Fluka) were dissolved in 19.2 µl of N,N-dimethylformamide (DMF) and added to 930.8 µl of PBS).